

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatuses for inserting flexible bags into open containers, and cuffing an open end of the flexible bags about a top edge of the open containers. The method and apparatus include a vacuum assembly having at least one movable vacuum head for engaging and positioning the flexible bags in preparation for their insertion into the open containers. An insertion assembly having a mandrel inserts the flexible bags into the open containers. A cuffing assembly can be included for cuffing the open end of the flexible bags over the top edges of the open containers. The vacuum assembly may engage a flexible bag from a bag dispenser while the mandrel is in an extended position within the container. The method and apparatus also facilitate the use of a vacuum assembly, insertion assembly, and cuffing assembly which are independently driven to provide greater speed and flexibility to the bag opening, insertion and cuffing processes.